

CRITERIA FOR CRITIQUING A RESEARCH REPORT

Step 1. The Problem

		YES	NO
______	Is the problem clearly and concisely stated?	____	____
______	Is the problem adequately narrowed down into a researchable problem?	____	____
______	Is the problem significant enough to warrant a formal research effort?	____	____
______	Is the relationship between the identified problem and previous research clearly described?	____	____

Step 2. Literature Review

______	Is the literature review logically organized?	____	____
______	Does the review provide a critique of the relevant studies?	____	____
______	Are gaps in knowledge about the research problem identified?	____	____
______	Are important relevant references included?	____	____

Step 3. Theoretical or Conceptual Framework

______	Is the theoretical framework easily linked with the problem (or does it seem forced)?	____	____
______	If a conceptual framework is used, are the concepts adequately defined, and are the relationships among these concepts clearly identified?	____	____

Step 4. Research Variables

______	Are the independent and dependent variables operationally defined?	____	____
______	Are any confounding variables present? If so, are they identified?	____	____

Step 5. Hypotheses

______	Are the hypotheses clear, testable, and specific?	____	____
______	Does each hypothesis describe a predicted relationship between two or more variables included in each hypothesis?	____	____
______	Do the hypotheses logically flow from the theoretical or conceptual framework?	____	____

Step 6. Sampling

______	Is the sample size adequate?	____	____
______	Is the sample representative of the defined population?	____	____
______	Is the method for selection of the sample appropriate?	____	____
______	Is any sampling bias in the chosen method acknowledged?	____	____
______	Are the criteria for selecting the sample clearly identified?	____	____

Step 7. Research Design

______	Is the research design adequately described?	____	____
______	Is the design appropriate for the research problem?	____	____
______	Does the research design address issues related to the internal and external validity of the study?	____	____

Step 8. Data Collection Methods

______	Are the data collection methods appropriate for the study?	____	____
______	Are the data collection instruments described adequately?	____	____
______	Do the measurement tools have reasonable validity and reliability?	____	____

Step 9. Data Analysis

______	Is the results section clearly and logically organized?	____	____
______	Is the type of analysis appropriate for the level of measurement for each variable?	____	____
______	Are the tables and figures clear and understandable?	____	____
______	Is the statistical test the correct one for answering the research question?	____	____

Step 10. Interpretation and Discussion of the Findings

______	Does the investigator clearly distinguish between actual findings and interpretations?	____	____
______	Are the interpretations based on the data obtained?	____	____
______	Are the findings discussed in relation to previous research and to the conceptual/theoretical framework?	____	____
______	Are all generalizations warranted and defended?	____	____
______	Are the limitations of the results identified?	____	____
______	Are implications of the results discussed?	____	____
______	Are recommendations for future research identified?	____	____
______	Are the conclusions justified?	____	____